

## **Docket 17-108 Comment on Net Neutrality**

This is a comment on the misleadingly and cynically named "Restoring Internet Freedom" proposal.

**Internet access should continue to be strongly regulated as a utility under Title II.** The big ISPs' claim that they are somehow entitled to control the Internet doesn't have a leg to stand on. Did they come up with the idea? No. Did they create and implement the Internet? No. Do they provide the bulk of the content available worldwide on the Internet? No. Do they provide the bulk of the worldwide infrastructure needed for the Internet? No. They only provide the last mile of service from their servers to consumers.

Have consumers demanded a repeal of Net Neutrality? Quite the contrary. They have loudly called for and supported the protections of Net Neutrality. And they broke the FCC web site last Sunday when John Oliver called on them to comment. Any action to repeal Net Neutrality would be in direct opposition to the will of millions of Americans and would only be a favor to the big ISPs.

Will repealing Net Neutrality result in any benefits to consumers? Clearly not. The big ISPs repeatedly violated consumers' rights prior to the adoption of Net Neutrality by favoring certain services (usually their own) over others and actually blocking access to services. That is monopoly behavior, not the actions of businesses interested in and dedicated to serving their customers. Expecting the big ISPs to behave and regulate themselves is like asking a rattlesnake not to bite you. Or to paraphrase an Aesop's fable: "You knew what I was when you let me loose."

The Internet has become a **necessity of modern life**, just as the telephone and electricity services once did. People use it to vote, to contact their representatives in government, to do their banking, to pay bills, to run businesses, to make purchases, to renew licenses and other services, to take classes, to do research, to get student lesson plans, to upload student homework, to consult with their children's teachers, to consult with their medical professionals, to stay in touch with family and friends, and that's just for starters.

**Businesses run by small entrepreneurs have blossomed on the Internet** because it greatly reduces barriers to entry and costs of operation and provides a level playing field. Allowing the big ISPs to control access to the Internet would mean a quick death to the startup and growth of small businesses.

I repeat: **Internet access must continue to be strictly regulated as a utility under Title II.**

Frankly, I see this move to allow the big ISPs to control the Internet as yet another attempt on the part of this administration to control the information people have access to and to stifle dissent.

Do not put consumers at the "mercy" of the big ISPs by replacing Net Neutrality with some preposterous "voluntary" compliance program that ISPs have already shown by past actions that they would not honor.

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